

mantis was facing earthwards with the lizard firmly secured in its fore legs. It had eaten the greater part of it. About six inches below, a large bloodsucker was seated on the same pole watching the proceedings. I watched carefully for quite a while when suddenly the large bloodsucker rushed at the mantis. The mantis immediately dropped its prey and assumed a defensive attitude with the forelegs outstretched and ready to strike. The wings were also wide spread. The large bloodsucker snapped up the remains of the little one as they fell and swallowed them, but did not dare to attack the menacing mantis. The bloodsucker then went away. The mantis remained in the defensive attitude for a considerable time after the event.

Those who have handled one of the larger mantids can well appreciate the painful results of a grip of its well-armed pincer-like forelegs, no wonder the bloodsucker was not anxious to tackle the insect. Bloodsuckers do take mantids when they can get them at a disadvantage, but I have on several occasions seen a bloodsucker drop its captive soon after it caught it. *D. ocellata* is not uncommon in Salsette, and there is a good figure of it in Lefroy's *Indian Insect Life*.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

BOMBAY.

C. McCANN.

29th July, 1941.

[That the larger mantids sometimes hunt 'bigger game' is certain. In the Society's Museum there is a specimen of a Purple Sun Bird taken in the grip of a mantis. The bird was partly scalped when captor and prey were secured.—Eds.]

XVI.—PARASITIZATION OF LARVA OF THE HAWK MOTH (*OXYAMBULYX SUBOCELLATA*) BY FLIES.

Mr. Sevastopulo's note on the parasitization of *Rhyncholaba acteus* Cr. by Tachinid flies on page 449 of vol. xlii of the *Journal*, and Mr. McCann's previous note on a similar subject but dealing with *Theretra lycetus* Cr., has reminded me of a case in which I found a larva of the Hawk Moth (*Oxyambulyx subocellata* Feld.) parasitized by flies of the genus *Blepharipoda*; but in this instance no eaking of the soil was noticed. The pupae of the parasites were distributed in various parts of the breeding cage.

DIBRUGARH,
LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT,
ASSAM.

R. E. PARSONS,
F. R. E. S.,
Indian Police.

28th June, 1941.

XVII.—EFFECTS OF THE BITE OF THE LARGE MYGALOMORPH SPIDER (*CHILOBRACHYS* SP.).

I have today despatched under a separate cover a large spider of the tarantula type and shall be pleased to have your opinion on it. I have never seen such a large spider or one of this hairy type

in this part of the world and it would be of interest to know if it is of a species commonly found in India.

It was disturbed in a stack of fire-wood which was inside the house of one of the labourers on the Keyhung Division of this Company. A girl aged eight years took some firewood from the stack and in doing so dislodged the spider which bit her on the hand causing a very painful swelling.

A report on the case has been drawn up by Dr. K. P. Hare, the Medical Officer of this District, from particulars given him by our Indian Assistant Medical Officer.

Dr. Hare unfortunately was not able to examine the case as it was not reported to him. His report is now given.

REPORT ON CASE OF SUPPOSED SPIDER BITE AT KEYHUNG T.E.

First day.—A female child aged 8 years came in contact with a large spider which was said by the parents to have bitten her on the dorsum of the left hand. She was seen by the A.M.O. 2-3 hours later when the dorsum of the hand was swollen and red all over. The swelling was not hot. In the centre of the swelling there was a black mark, circular in outline, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter but no puncture could be seen.

Second day.—The swelling had increased and had become hot. The black centre was unchanged.

Third day.—The black centre had become vesicular and burst, exuding a serous discharge. There was no slough in the base of the ulcer.

Fourth day.—The main swelling was subsiding but the central ulcer had increased to a diameter of about 1 inch. There was some slough in the base but the exudate was still serous.

Fifth day.—The size of the ulcer was increasing, and sloughing was more marked. The exudate was still serous.

Sixth day.—The ulcer had further increased in size, and suppuration had commenced.

The condition remained fairly stationary until:—

Tenth day.—The slough separated and the exudate again became serous and the inflammatory swelling subsided.

From this day granulation commenced with slow healing.

Throughout the course there was no rise of temperature.'

TINGRI TEA CO., LTD.,

HOOGRIJAN P.O. & T.O..

T. WOOLY SMITH.

11th June, 1941.

[The spider has been identified as *Chilobrachys* sp. (probably *fumosus*). These large hairy spiders are commonly called Tarantulas—though the true Tarantula takes its name from the town of Tarentum in Italy and is confined to the Mediterranean littoral. All spiders possess a pair of poison glands opening near the tip of the fangs, but few seem to have the power of injecting their poison into human beings. It is believed that the poison is not automatically ejected whenever the fang is used, but is under the spider's control. Dr. Gravely in his interesting article on Indian Spiders